


**TO:** NSPE Board of Directors

**cc:** NSPE House of Delegates  
NSPE Committee, Task Force, Council and Interest Group Chairs  
State Society Presidents and Presidents-elect  
State Society Executives Council  
NSPE Past Presidents

**FROM:** Mark J. Golden, FASAE, CAE   
Executive Director

**DATE:** November 1, 2017

**RE:** Board Update: October 15-31, 2017

**Membership Model Update:** The latest news on implementing the new membership business model can be found on the [website](#).

[Issue 4](#) of our regular Membership Model updates has been circulated directly to all state leaders, and can also be found on the FAQ website. This edition includes a detailed timeline of the transition to the new model (effective July 1, 2018).

This issue also includes a detailed explanation (including step-by-step processes and screen shots) of the [technical interfaces](#) that integrated state societies will use to directly interact with their members' records in the national database.

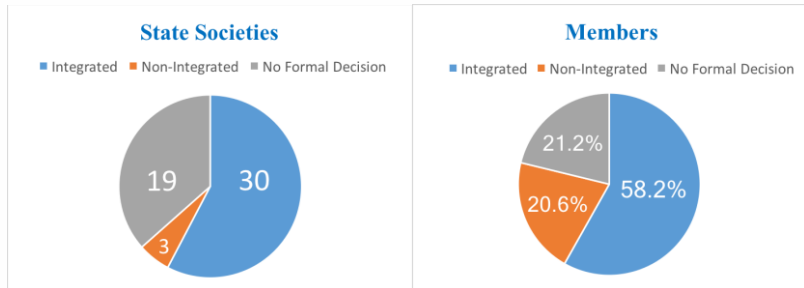
NSPE continues to enhance and leverage national's installed membership administration technology under the new model. A key focus of these efforts is *ensuring that every state society participating through integrated affiliation can continue—and even improve—its ease of information access, quality of interactions, and ability to deliver direct, personal service to members in its state*. Just because national is doing the actual billing administration does NOT mean our database needs to come between your state society and its members. In fact, quite the opposite. National is committed, and has the technology and systems in place, to provide every integrated state society a level of dues administration and database support that is absolutely transparent to the member, and to do so *regardless of the level of association management system (if any) the state society maintains*.

The [technical interface report](#) also provides detailed descriptions of how and where your state society membership operations personnel and systems can interface today with national's membership billing and administration system. You will also find a timeline for introducing new features and enhancements to help state societies, regardless of whether they don't have an association management system/database, use the YourMembership system, or use some other form of AMS.

(An archive of all business model updates issued since the House of Delegates approval is on the [website](#).)

*NSPE encourages states to use the information in this report in newsletters or other updates to their membership to inform members on the activities of NSPE. As a suggestion, it may be most useful to take the bullets of most interest from the transmittal email. The full report (and past reports) can always be found [online](#).*

As of today, the status of formal notifications from state societies on their election of affiliation option can be summarized as follows:



### Championing the PE License

**NSPE Calls for Investigation:** NSPE has called for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to conduct a thorough and complete investigation into the events leading to the shutdown of construction of two nuclear reactors in South Carolina.

According to multiple sources, including media reports and statements by licensed professional engineers familiar with these events, Westinghouse Corporation and other contractors allegedly used unqualified and unlicensed individuals to design aspects of two nuclear reactors at the V.C. Summer site, placing the public health and safety at risk. Documents obtained by Charleston's *Post and Courier*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper, show that construction drawings used at the site were not prepared, reviewed, or approved by licensed professional engineers. According to reports, state and federal officials were not informed that unqualified and unlicensed workers were preparing design documents or conducting complex engineering calculations. These practices allegedly contributed to thousands of design revisions, construction setbacks, schedule changes, and the ultimate demise of the entire project.

In the [October 26 letter](#) to the NRC, NSPE President Tom Roberts, P.E., F.NSPE, stated, "A professional engineering license demonstrates a commitment to standards of engineering practice and ethical conduct by individuals possessing the necessary education, experience, and qualifications to provide critical engineering services to the public.... The public interest is best served when qualified individuals have not only proper technical expertise, but also a clear safety obligation that overrides all other considerations."

The local news media in South Carolina have been closely following this issue, and speaking frequently with NSPE. After sending the letter to the NRC, NSPE provided a copy to the *Post and Courier*, which has been an excellent resource in their continued coverage of the issue. Almost immediately after NSPE sent the letter to the NRC, the *Post and Courier* posted a [follow-up story](#) about NSPE's letter and our call for a federal investigation. The *Post and Courier* also has been very active in taking to social media and tagging NSPE when there are new stories.

NSPE has also received coverage on the South Carolina Radio Network, which conducted an interview with President Tom Roberts, P.E., F.NSPE, about the Society's letter and stance on the issue, and produced an article on their main website, which can be seen [here](#). The South Carolina Radio Network has 30 stations operating around the state, so it's possible that parts of the interview were broadcast on radio stations throughout the state. NSPE will be monitoring for those and will send along any clips we find.

**Federal Bill Requires PE Seal:** NSPE and the profession achieved another legislative victory, securing a major provision in a mine reclamation bill (H.R. 2937) that requires the seal of a PE on engineering plans. The Community Reclamation Partnerships Act, passed by the House of Representatives in October, makes it easier for states and communities to clean up areas affected by abandoned mines. The bill requires all project submissions to the Secretary of the Interior to include a description of the proposed project and also would set up a process for nongovernmental organizations to help restore abandoned mine sites and surrounding areas. With the passage of the bill, focus now shifts to the introduction and passage of a Senate bill. NSPE will provide updates as they become available.

**NSPE Member Nominated to Federal Post:** NSPE has extended congratulations to long-time member J. Steven Gardner, P.E., on being nominated as the director of the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. In his letter, NSPE President Tom Roberts, P.E., F.NSPE, noted: "The important role and responsibilities of the director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement clearly call for a leader who has proven qualifications attained only through a PE license," and pledged to work with him to ensure the role and value to public health, safety and welfare provided by PEs are recognized in the office's work. An [April 2014 PE article](#) tells about Gardner's career and adapting to a changing industry.

## Ethical Guide to the Profession

**Ethics in the Midst of Controversy:** On November 15, NSPE will offer the next in its series of live ethics webinars, "[Engineering Ethics: The PE and Sustainable Development](#)" at 2:00 PM Eastern. This 60-minute webinar will focus primarily on ethical issues relating to a PE being overruled on an environmental matter. It will cover the PE's ethical responsibility in addressing public environmental concerns and the obligation and responsibilities of a PE during an environmental controversy as well as other ethical and professional practice issues.

## Powering Professional Advancement

**Wastewater Webinar:** Coming up on November 8, at 2:00 PM Eastern, NSPE will offer a live webinar on "[Understanding Sanitary Wastewater Engineering](#)," presented by Kristin (Kris) Morico, P.E., BCEE, CSP, D.WRE, ENV SP, F.ASCE, who leads environmental programs at GE. This webinar will focus on understanding wastewater (sanitary/industrial) sources and treatment technologies for wastewater, including an overview of Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure regulation and the practical aspects of developing an SPCC plan. Learn more about storm water generation, engineering controls, and various industrial applications. (This offering has received PDH approval from New York.)

**Eyes on NSPE Reports:** According to web analytics, the landing page for NSPE’s [summary reports on state PE laws and rules](#) was visited 1,749 times between July 2016 and October 2017. (That number does not include those who clicked directly to an individual report, bypassing the landing page.) Here’s the breakdown:

Report	Views	Member Downloads	Non-Member Downloads
Continuing Education Requirements for Professional Engineers	3,156	106	4
Definitions of the Practice of Engineering	130	29	2
Education & Experience Requirements for the Professional Engineer	1,154	102	1
Exemptions to Engineering Licensure Laws	160 <sup>1</sup>	394	3
State Licensing Fees	2,181	201	0

It should be noted that this level of activity occurred with minimal marketing to stimulate interest. The reports, free to members, are currently being updated for the year, and as the revised versions are rolled out, there **will** be targeted electronic and social media promotion of the new editions. Moreover, nonmembers who want to purchase a report (\$9.95) will become member prospects. NSPE will use these contacts to market and promote membership, based on the interest or concern evidenced by their document purchase.

## Uniting the PE Community



**Inspiring Wonder:** Engineers, with their abilities to solve problems and build innovative solutions, can help inspire younger generations to pursue STEM-related fields. That’s part of the motivation behind the next Engineers Week theme, “Engineers: Inspiring Wonder.” The theme was announced at a planning webinar on September 27.

The 2018 Engineers Week will take place February 18–24, and Girl Day (Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day) will be on February 22.

DiscoverE will provide 2018 volunteer kits for Engineers Week and Girl Day with helpful resources to promote the events. The kits will include newly designed posters, bookmarks, and an activity guide with over 125 activities and lesson plans organized by grade, topic, engineering discipline, time, and language. You can order a print copy or download the copyright-free artwork at [DiscoverE.org](#).

A customizable career presentation and online training for educators are also available on DiscoverE.org. The presentation “Inspire Innovation: Discover Engineering Careers” is aimed at 8th- to 11th-graders and is anchored by six videos featuring engineering undergrads. The online trainings include tips on incorporating engineering into the

---

<sup>1</sup> This report was moved mid-period, resulting in an underreporting of actual page visits.

classroom, leading kids through a successful engineering experience, talking to kids about engineering, and creating large-scale engineering events.

Social media will be used before, during, and after the event to help further promote the Engineers Week message. The hashtags will be #Eweek2018 and #GirlDay2018. Be sure to follow and interact with DiscoverE's various social media accounts as well.

**All in the Brand Family:** The Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers has become the 31st state partner to adopt a logo from the NSPE brand family.

**Position on Tax Reform:** In a legislative initiative with potential impact on your state society's tax status and financial performance, NSPE signed onto an American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) letter supporting associations in tax reform. NSPE joined with the association community in urging lawmakers to protect the vital work that associations and other tax-exempt organizations perform across the nation and the world. Of chief concern to the association community: potential changes to taxes on unrelated business income (UBIT). Depending on various changes that may be considered, associations could be forced to make stark changes related to their activities and income sources, and may have difficulty continuing the work they do in communities across the country. We therefore joined in calling upon Congress to consider the positive impact of our sector before making any changes to the tax code that would negatively impact our work.

---

And remember, you always have access to NSPE leadership resources in the [Leadership Toolbox](#). This includes [talking point](#) scripts and presentations for use by NSPE officers, board members, and other leaders during state visits, chapter meetings, or other venues to promote NSPE and its activities, updated on an at least quarterly basis. Current board members can access an online library of board meeting materials (past, current and future) through the online board book site, ([BoardBookIt](#)).

If you want to review NSPE's history and how that has been translated into current plans with a future-focus, NSPE's purpose, mission, vision and a history of the *Race for Relevance* and the resulting Strategic Plan is summarized in a section called "[Who We Are and What We Do](#)."